the views of others on the question of communal representation, the Government should keep an open mind in the matter and remove all obstacles in the way of granting special electorates for Muslims. The need for such electorates had been brought to the notice of the Government by the Muslim member of the Council in the form of a resolution which was disallowed on a technical ground. But in view of what had already been stated, the member wished the Government to reconsider the question and satisfy an imperative need.

As regards representation of Muslims in public service, he was at one with the previous speaker in all that he stated.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Muhammad Ali, I have heard your representation with a good deal of interest. In Muslim countries, *Wakfs* and religious foundations are controlled by a separate department, almost like our Devaswom Department. In British India there is a system of trusts in regard to *Wakfs*.

MEMBER : In British India they are controlled by the Government.

DEWAN : They are controlled by the Government but not actually managed. Government will see that these trusts are properly managed if a request comes from the community as a whole. If the Mahomedan community in Travancore can make it perfectly clear to the Government that they wish to have a Regulation, like the one in British India, brought into force, Government will be pleased to assist them in such manner as they may deem fit.

Then, next, you also dealt with a measure to control the income and expenditure of mosques.

MEMBER : That is included in my first subject.

DEWAN : But that is not exactly the same thing.

MEMBER : The same body may manage both.

DEWAN : The same body may *manage* both ; but they are distinct matters.

You have already heard what I have said in the matter of changes in the Electoral Rules that have been pressed by various members of this Assembly in respect of their own communities. To put it very plainly, I do not like to experiment till the Legislative Council has stood a fair test. Therefore I do not propose to make any changes in the immediate future.

The other points will all be taken up and considered.

181. Needs of the Muslims.

MR. SHAIK MAHOMED MOHIDEEN ALIM SAHIB SHAHUL HAMEED SAHIB (*Member, Nominated*) in conveying an expression of the loyalty of the Muslims to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, said that the Muslims formed 15 per cent. of the total population of the State and contributed about 25 per cent. of the total revenue. But it was regrettable that they were not given due representation on the Legislative Council. According to their numerical strength, they could claim 8 out of the 50 seats in the Council. Even among the 35 seats assigned to non-officials, they ought to get 4 or 5 seats. Under the existing Electoral Rules, they could not get a fair representation, because communal considerations predominated in election campaigns in the general constituencies. It was therefore necessary to form special electorates for Muslims to return members to at least 4 seats which they could legitimately aspire to. The system of special electorates was in vogue in British India and it had the support of eminent men like Lord Morley, Lord Chelmsford and Mr. E. S. Montague. It would be beneficial to the Muslim community in Travancore if separate electorates be formed for them. The member wished that the same might be brought into effect during the regime of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and said that Her Highness's name would be fondly cherished for ever for the boon.

The member was glad that the Government had accepted the principle of communal representation in public service, and in support he referred to pages 1009 to 1052 of Vol. VI, and pages 420 to 461 of Vol. VII, of the Legislative Council

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Proceedings. Fifteen per cent. of the total appointments in the State service should be reserved for the Muslims, provided qualified persons were eligible. In order to ascertain the number of qualified Muslims, a register should be maintained in the Secretariat for entering the names of Muslim applicants and a consolidated list of qualified men should be published in the *Gazette*. Applications presented to Heads of Departments were not even registered in their offices. The Government should devote greater attention to the matter of entertaining Muslims in the public service and see that officers like those whose explanations were called for in G. O. Dis. 458 of 25/G. A., did not frustrate the intentions of the Government. Many qualified Muslims had not secured appointments even after long waiting.

In the higher ranks of the service, the Muslims did not form even one per cent. There were qualified members in their community fit to hold such appointments, both in the service and outside. The case of those qualified men should be considered whenever vacancies in the higher ranks were filled.

In the matter of educational facilities, the provisions of the G. O. granting certain concessions to the Mahomedans were not strictly adhered to by the authorities concerned. As an instance in point, the member said that the interval on Fridays sanctioned by the G. O. was not being granted in all cases.

The amount set apart for Mahomedan scholarships should be increased year by year, so that more and more Mahomedan youths might be induced to go in for higher education. Two Mahomedan scholarships might be instituted in each of the Arts and Science Colleges to commemorate the name of Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent.

Mahomedan students who took up Arabic as their optional subject in the School Final class could not continue their courses of study in the Arts College because provision had not been made there to teach Arabic. In order to remove that defect, an Arabic Professor should be appointed.

The Primary School for Mahomedan girls at Elankadai, Kottar, was housed in a small hut situated in an insanitary locality. There were 60 pupils in the school but the accommodation was poor. A new building should therefore be put up for the school.

The *Bara-wa-fat*, the birthday of the Holy Prophet, should be declared a general public holiday as in British India and Mysore. It was already a Mahomedan holiday but it was not enough.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Shaik Mahomed Mohideen Alim Sahib Shahul Hameed Sahib, most of the points you have taken up have already been taken up by other speakers and answered.

As regards the rest, I shall have them examined carefully.

The Assembly adjourned at 4-20 P. M. to meet again at 11 A. M. on Monday the 7th March, 1927.

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